



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Science and Technology Directorate
James V. Johnson
Mail Stop #2100
245 Murray Lane SW., Building 410
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (CEQ# 20080252).

This draft EIS evaluates the Department of Homeland Security's proposal to site, construct, and operate a National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). The NBAF will be operated as a biosafety level-3 and level-4 research facility that would allow basic and advanced research, diagnostic testing and validation, countermeasure development, and diagnostic training for addressing high-consequence livestock diseases to U.S. agriculture and public health. Six alternative sites were evaluated in the draft EIS: Athens, Georgia; Manhattan, Kansas; Flora, Mississippi; Plum Island, New York; Butner, North Carolina; and San Antonio, Texas. However, a preferred alternative was not identified in the draft EIS.

EPA believes that this draft EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts. Moreover, the draft EIS does not identify any significant environmental effects that will result in this action. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the proposed action discussed in this draft EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft EIS. The staff contact for this review is Candi Schaedle; she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Bromm", is written over a rectangular area.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities